CIA Justification Ordered

Ex-Intelligence Men Win Round on Book

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Two former government intelligence officers won a preliminary round in their legal fight to restore censorship deletions by the Central Intelligence Agency in a manuscript describing operations of the agency.

U.S. District Court Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr. in Alexandria ordered the government to produce documents to support the 225 security deletions it made in the book manuscript of former Central Intelligence Agency official Victor Marchetti and former State Department intelligence officer John Marks.

The CIA, in ordering the deletions under a previous U.S. Court of Appeals order, said four of its deputy directors had decided that the deleted matter violated security classification. But the government produced no documents to support the decisions.

The Marchetti-Marks manuscript, entitled "CIA, the Cult of Intelligence" and scheduled for publication by Knopf, described specific and potentially controversial operations of the CIA's Clandestine Division over a period of years.

It reportedly goes into the CIA's dealings with prominent foreign leaders as well as "black" intelligence operations abroad.

Yesterday's decision by Judge Bryan requires that Knopf's lawyer, Floyd Abrams, by given clearance to examine deleted portions of the manuscript, a move the government opposed.

It also requires the government to clear former National Security Council staffer Morton Halperin for access to the material in the book that the government claims to be classified.

The two authors asked that Halperin serve as a witness to help pass on the government's classification of the manuscript from a national security standpoint.

Halperin, a witness in the Pentagon papers case, is currently suing Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger for damages in the government security tapping of Halperin's phone between May, 1969, and February, 1971.

Marchetti and Marks also named Kissinger as a defendant in their countersuit against the government. The State Department is seeking to enjoin Marks, formerly an officer in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, from publishing material, gathered during his period of government service, without prior official review.